



## Suburban Dream

[00:00:00] **Dr Bradley Onishi:** Welcome to straight white American Jesus. My name's Brad Onishi associate professor religious studies, Skidmore college. And I'm here today with my cohost.

**Dr Dan Miller:** I'm Dan Miller, associate professor of religion and social thought at Landmark college. Good to see you, Brad, you too.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Again, we have a big announcement.

We are going to be headlining our own alone music festival. Dan will be performing under the name suburban lifestyle dream, and I will be the opener with my metal band demons from, so it's going to be a good one and demon seaman. Well, now we're going to have to label this explicit. So thank you, Dan.

Thank you very much. We're going to have, this is now R rated. I don't know. I don't know why.

**Dr Dan Miller:** But it's Christian right. As we'll get into it. Right. It's clearly a Christian to believe that, [00:01:00] sexual or reproductive health issues are from, you know, having sex with demons.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** That's true. So, Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

Religious Liberty. If you, if they censor this, I'm claiming religious Liberty, that's a lawsuit there. They're going to hear from me. So take that. So a real quick story, then it is disability pride month this week. And I have, something I don't talk about too much, but I have, something known as dyspraxia and people don't really talk about that this much in this country, but it is a thing it affects.

Your, sort of processing, how your brain processes things. So people with dyspraxia often are very bad at like mechanical tasks. When I was young, I, it took me forever to learn how to tie my shoe. couldn't tie a tie until very well into adulthood, things like that. And so, just wanted to shout that out.

And Dan, I want to give you a very good example of. How dyspraxia works, in real life. So, my wife will tell you it works in the ways that I break dishes all the time, or, you know, totally spill, red wine everywhere or whatever it is. So those are like very day to day things.

[00:02:00] But I will say Dan, a little bit ago, I went in for, a colonoscopy, which is just a really fun part, middle age, everyone.

And that is part of the suburban lifestyle dream, getting a colonoscopy, every five years. So I go in and do that and, they're the nurses prepping me and she's like, alright, change out of your clothes and put these on. Right. So Dan, she gives me a gown and I'm like, oh cool. All right. But this gown on.

And then she gives me two hats. I'm like, oh, I guess I need to wear a hat because I don't know, what am I doing? Food prep while I'm getting a cold. I have no idea why I thought I needed to wear a hat. So I'm like, all right, I'll just put this on. She's like, and she had instructed me to like walk down the hall and then like go into the little room where the anesthesiologists would put me under and there we go. All right. So I put it on and I'm like, I have no shoes on and I have no socks. I'm like barefoot, I'm walking this hospital gown and I've got this thing on. That really does not fit on my head very well, but I have a big head people not, not symbolically, like if I physically have a big head.

So I was like, well, [00:03:00] maybe it's just cause I'm mr. A huge noggin or something. And as I'm walking, there's like nurses in every room, Dan, like down this hallway and they just are all glancing up and without any decorum just bursting into hilarious guttural laughter and I'm just like, wow, what's so funny, man.

I'm just a dude walking in the gown. You don't have to be laughing at me. People come on, we're in gowns. So I finally get to the room where I'm supposed to be and the anesthesiologist and nurse, they both start the guttural laughter as well. I'm just like, well, what is happening? And she's just like one of those very like kind but funny, like, oh honey, like bless your heart.

And she takes the thing off my head. She's like, these are. These are like little sock, bootie things I gave you two of them to wear on your feet. Why do you have it on your head? Like a three year old who doesn't know how to dress themselves? And, I'm like old enough and secure enough in myself that I can laugh at this.

It was no, I laughed along with like, we all had a great time. I mean, if you [00:04:00] want to have a great time getting a colonoscopy, just put the shoes on your head.

But you can add it to the list of like taking a long time to tie your shoes.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Right. It's just like, it's another, yeah. Another example.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Right, but I, I will say friends, if you are out there, you're struggling.

If you have dyspraxia and you, you don't know how to talk about it, or, dysgraphia is another related, condition. You know, don't, don't be afraid to reach out, get diagnosed. And anyway, we're thinking of all folks who are facing different, different disabilities and different things. and, I hope that you can all laugh at my, funny colonoscopy story, Dan, all that stuff.

Now that we've announced our summer festival and my ridiculous antics, let's get to what may be the most full Newsweek we've had. I don't know, in months, maybe, maybe since the killing of, of cozy Amani at the beginning of the year, like I just feels like there's way too much. Is that how you feel?

**Dr Dan Miller:** Yeah.

Well, it's funny to let people behind the curtain, some, we first got thrown into this kind of weekly Roundup thing, right? There's just so much [00:05:00] going on that we're like, we can't ignore it. We have to kind of deal with it. One of my concerns was, well, that sounds great, but like, what do we do? And when the news cycle slows down and we were like, well, I guess we'll, you know, we'll figure that out when we come to it and like, we have never come to it.

It's a. It's pretty exhausting. And I'll say, there's no way that we can get to everything this week. And we didn't even know how to organize. And we were toying around with like going day by day or like crazy story by crazy story or by theme. So we'll hit when we can hit, but yeah, the news cycle.

Yeah. If you'd said three or four months ago that it would be even more nuts now than it was, then I would have thought you were crazy, but here we are in this kind of altered reality that just won't stop.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Well let's. So we're going to talk folks today. We're going to talk in a couple of different buckets or themes.

So we're going to talk about race. We're going to talk about COVID or going to talk about election. We have probably a dozen stories that's going to fit into all of those religion will be infused with all of them. So. let's start with a very clearly religious story, [00:06:00] Dan. And that comes from the beginning of the week, July 27 when Eric Metaxas, who is a well known right wing kind of commentator author had a somewhat infamous dispute or something with Barack Obama, I'm sure Barack Obama didn't even flinch or think about it, but Eric Metaxas did, Metaxas is a provocateur in many ways. And he came out and said that Jesus was white and therefore he had white privilege. And facetiously is saying that the United Methodist church should sort of deal with that since they're dealing with deconstructing white privilege and white fragility.

So my taxes was basically responding to the United Methodist. Trying to reckon with white privilege and white fragility and here he's making fun of them. And one of the ways he's doing it is saying, well, Jesus was white. Did he have white privilege? Anyway, thoughts here?

**Dr Dan Miller:** Well, just the first is that he tries to make fun of them by blatantly displaying his own white fragility.

So, you know, I already have somehow like relying on his own [00:07:00] white fragility to try to take shots at the UMC, in efforts of dealing with that.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Yeah, well, and you know, we can, so in cases like this could go on and on for an hour about Jesus is not white. Jesus was, you know, a person of color, a first century Palestinian Jew.

I'm just going to say, look up a book by bloomin' Harvey, the color of Christ. Look up a book by my former colleague at Rhodes, Stephen Haynes. It's not hard to see that Jesus was not white and that Jesus was a person of color. We've gone over this, on this show. We've talked about how the most disseminated picture of Christ in the United States is Warner Solomon's head of Christ, where he is a sort of depicted as a Nordic looking guy.

We talked about this a while back. All that to say, it's not hard to dispute this, but the point here, Dan is not disputing the facts. The point is what he's, what Metaxas is doing by making these sort of facetious jabs at the, at the UMC.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Yeah, I think the, [00:08:00] and there, there are other, other things, actual things, right?

Jesus is living under foreign occupation and, you know, in a Roman province and it has very few legal rights. He's not a Roman citizen and there's debate about his social class and all that, but you're right. I think that the sort of deeper, more disturbing or more significant issue is this kind of. Deep seated casual appeal to white identity.

That's built into that, right? It's the Jesus, Jesus was white. And so all of us, white people, we don't, we don't, we need to stop worrying so much about things like white privilege or what that's done to other people. And I think that's the, the kind of telling and disturbing point. And we've seen this with other people too, right.

Even when they're not trying to be. Provocative or to say crazy things. They make these statements. And then it's only after there's a backlash that I think some of them honestly even realize that they have these kind of deep seated. White identity perspectives that are just influencing what they're doing.

And I think as, as silly as it may sound as deceased as it may sound, I think his statements reflect [00:09:00] again, reflects a position that that probably is held by. Millions of white Christian Americans

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** When people wonder why we named the show straight white American Jesus, just because millions of people envision Jesus as a straight white American man period.

So, this leads us to another story, Dan, which is Senator Tom cotton from Arkansas. You're a former home state at least, says that does slavery was a necessary evil in order to build the union. That is the United States. So thoughts on this one?

**Dr Dan Miller:** Yeah. So Tom cotton, who I guess as sort of athlete named, given his, his views on race as it turns out.

Yeah. He made this statement and he's responding to this, this kind of, it's sort of multipurpose all this kind of New York times initiative, the 16, 19 project about basically a

model for studying American history, focusing on the arrival of people, of African descent in, the colonies, or let's say North America.

The status does a little, a little looser in 16, [00:10:00] 19. And doing that. And, and Tom cotton of course sees this as like basically, you know, crapping all over American history and saying that we're racist, who our core and so forth. And so he makes this statement, he says this to the quote of what he said.

He says, we have to study the history of slavery and its role impact on the development of our country, because otherwise we can't understand our country, which is of course true. And that's exactly what the 16, 19 is trying to do. But then he goes on and says, as the founding father said, it was the necessary evil of bond, which the union was built.

But the union was built in a way, as Lincoln said, we'll put slavery on the course to its ultimate extinction and that this is the really problematic statement is problematic for a number of reasons we'll get into those. But one of the first things I want to say is that it's ironic. I think that he actually makes the 16, 19 projects point.

When he basically allows and says, yeah, that's us founding. And it's sort of finding a foothold as a country, all of that, just to say nothing of like taking native American lands and all the other issues [00:11:00] that come up with this, this kind of idolized notion of the founding of, of, of the US But that it was built sort of acknowledging that it was built on slavery, but then he does two things I think are problematic.

One is defining it as a necessary evil. That's an important qualification, right? That, yeah, yeah, yeah. It was evil, but it was necessary, which I think implies approval in some way. We'll get into that later, but then the other one is this, this kind of myth. And I remember hearing this in grade school and like middle school and I'll throw it over to you in a minute to see your thoughts on this.

But this myth that lots of the founders were like reluctant slaveholders. They really thought slavery was bad. They didn't think that it was good, but they know they felt like it was necessary to phase out. Why do I call that a myth? I call it a myth for a couple of reasons. Number one, it didn't phase out.

It expanded this week from the colonial period, forward. It didn't phase in any kind of automatic organic. It took a civil war too officially bring it to an end. And the other thing is, [00:12:00] you know, we'll go back and look at this. And I was, I was reading more about this, this week in anticipation of this and yeah, Thomas Jefferson and people like that.

Jefferson's always the sort of poster child for this of, you know, this notion that slavery is bad. What don't, I mean, well, why? Well, it was because they were still racist and still believe that black people couldn't. Live in a manner that was equal to white people. They couldn't be quote unquote civilized that they were this kind of infant tile, almost subhuman group of people that needed a, basically a kind of white paternalism to help them.

And when people, a lot of white Americans, colonists, slaveholders would say that slavery should be done away with people don't realize. And I was never taught this, I think, any time

in like my education. I actually ever.. That a lot of them didn't want to free slaves. They didn't have a view of a country with a lot of people of African descent who were equal with white people.

They wanted to basically deport them. They wanted to create a separate [00:13:00] black state somewhere and send them all there so that they could still have a white country. But do away with slavery by removing all the slaves from North America in former slaves, people of African descent. So it's super, super, super simplistic and problematic too, as part of his myth that he's appealing to is that, you know, we just had to do this for a little while it was necessary to be established and then it would phase out.

We can still pick on that language of necessary evil, but one of mine is that myth that the founders were all somehow opposed to slavery or reluctant slaveholders, which is a really simplistic and problematic.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Well just to finish up on this as you're, as you're outlining here, Tom cotton's comments take place within the context of.

What he thinks is a debate over the 16, 19 project at the New York times. Nice tweet here from the progenitor of that project hannah Jones, who tweets under the handle Ida Bay Wells. And she says if chattel slavery, heritable generational, permanent race-based slavery, where [00:14:00] it was legal to rape torture and sell human beings for profit or quote, unnecessary evil as Tom cotton says.

It's hard to imagine what can not be justified if it is a means to an end. And I think that's, that's a pretty good take, right? That if you adopt Cotton's position, then what is not potentially under the category of necessary evil. I mean, We're talking about owning human beings, where it's legal to rape and torture and sell them.

If that's a necessary evil, then we're going down a very, very, very slippery, ethical slope in my view.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Just real quickly. And this, this goes beyond what Cotton says explicitly. I don't know for sure that he believes this, but I cannot think it's not part of it want to bring the religion into it. There's also a deep theological undercurrent there, right?

Theology that says everything that happens ultimately happens because God wills it. And so no matter how bad something seems. It's part of a larger divine purpose. And that, that obviously predates Tom cotton or [00:15:00] American evangelicals. It goes all the way back. At least to somebody like Saint Augustine and other thinkers.

I mean, it's a centuries old notion, but it's one of the problems I've always had, but that's theology is everything becomes justifiable, everything. Becomes something that, well, you know, God must have willed it. And we know that Cotton, right? Those beliefs that the niche that America has some sort of Christian vocation, and we're the light on the Hill, all the stuff we've talked about, you've talked about a great deal.

So I think that's part of this as well. And it goes right to her point. And that was a fantastic, like powerful tweet when she responded with that, it goes right to her point. That there's nothing that can't be justified without logic. And so it's more than just a political logic. I think it's a deeply theological perspective as well.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** This theology runs deep in American. In American DNA. And so if you were to sit in that, there's, there's a plethora of resources. One of them I'll shout out is Julie Ingersoll's building God's kingdom, where she spends time on the [00:16:00] theologians, Dabney and Rush Duney. and, those are sort of names.

If you're not familiar with, it might sound a little bit odd, but there are two theologians who articulated very clearly in the 20th century and 19th century. The, sort of God's will for slavery. And Julie is going to be my guest on the next episode of the orange wave. And so anyway, it ties, it ties nicely in there.

I want to go to one more story here on race, Dan, and that is going to lead us into, I think COVID as well. It's kind of a hybrid story. And that is the news that Herman Cain passed away, yesterday. And, rest in peace Herman Cain. We're not here to make any snide remarks about that. your, your friends and your family I'm sure are grieving and hurting.

So, with that said, one of the reasons we need to point it out is that. Herman Cain attended Trump's rally and Tulsa. Herman Cain, was then diagnosed with COVID and he then died. This honestly, Dan if we were not drinking from a fire hose in terms of [00:17:00] crisis all the time, this would be a administration changing story in any other context. The fact that what everyone said was going to happen, Trump holds a rally indoors where he specifically tied the chairs together. So people could not social distance where it was all the health advisors and the epidemiologists are like, please don't do it. And they said, we're going to do it anyway.

We're Kaylee Machen. And he said, beforehand, I will not be wearing a mask or Herman Cain himself said beforehand, I'm not wearing a mask. And here's a man who is, is a couple of things. He's in the, older age range. He's over 70, very vulnerable. He's also African-American right. All those things play into this, Dan.

Anyway, I throw it to you for your thoughts on Herman Cain.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Yeah. So just a couple of things to add for context, right? This is people will remember Herman Cain was, was briefly a presidential candidate for the GOP, former CEO of Godfather's pizza. So he fits that. So on the one hand, the GOP [00:18:00] model of like the CEO of the wealthy person, but he was also, as you say, African American.

And so he was one of the sort of few prominent African American supporters of the Trump administration. In fact, he was the co-chair of, the kind of organization of black voices for Trump. And so, as you say, for a lot of reasons, this would be a game changer in any other administrator, except that, unfortunately, in this case, it's just.

So unsurprising, and I just reiterate what you just said. We're not here to dance on anybody's grave and we don't want to pat ourselves on the back for predicting the people

are going to die. It's just an unfortunate thing, but it was another one, but it does, as you say it, it shows that overlap is a lot of these things do between politics and race that are just there.

They're always inevitable. But with the Trump administration, they're just were screaming at us every day.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Well, and I just want to point something out, Dan, that, when we entered four years ago, the, the, the election race Clinton versus Trump, it became very clear during that time that Trump's strategy and any scandal was double-down.

[00:19:00] So the access Hollywood tape came out essentially four years ago, this summer, right? What was the response? The response was a hostage looking video where he doubled down. He does that on every issue to the point again, we've now become accustomed to it. Right where, so I woke up, I'm not going to lie to you.

I woke up and I saw Herman Cain had passed away from COVID and I thought to myself, I don't know any more straightforward sort of story that there is. Then Trump holds a rally. Every health official says, please, you don't do it. There's no social distancing it's inside. And then one of his most prominent supporters who happens to be one of his only prominent black supporters passes away from COVID. There was no, this is right, but what did I wake up to? I wake up to Laura Ingraham saying, Oh, it was probably the stage four cancer. He was diagnosed with 14 years ago that caused his death. Not COVID. I wake up to a Republican house candidate, Angela Stanton King in Georgia, who herself is a black American saying that on Twitter, [00:20:00] celebrities and Democrats catch COVID and magically heal.

But Herman Cain is dead. This is war, like, like somehow Herman Cain passing away from COVID is the work of an international, Illuminati conspiracy, rather than the fact that the man was 74 years old and went to the worst kind of event possible for someone in his age range, and health history.

I mean, we just are living in the house of the double-down, no matter what, even if the facts are straightforward. We just double down and say, well, probably the cancer from a decade ago, probably the, the, George sower run jr. George Soros run, you know, a Illuminati group, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

Rather than just, just there's no contrition. Nope. Apology, no ability to say we were wrong. Like that is when anyone on, on social media, it says, why are you posting these things that are so hard on the president or someone else? Why don't you be a peacemaker? My response is not, you know, my response is, look, I'm just posting what happened here, [00:21:00] but second I okay.

If you want me to be peacemaker, please look at the political climate. The candidate you're supporting has created. They've created a situation where no matter enter the dastardly deed, no matter what happens, it's double down and try to skew the facts. So we don't have to own up to what we did. And anyway, I just think that's worth pointing out.

So, anyway, last thoughts on this one.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Yep. We'll move on to another issue that ties to the same points that was the, the, memorials for John Lewis this week. Right. That, if, if people recall, of course John Lewis, made a name for himself fighting and suffering during the, African American civil rights movement got on the wrong side of Trump, you know, some years ago, refuses to go to various events, the Trump heads and so forth as has said that he wasn't a legitimate president and so on.

And so, Trump had responded in the past by calling them all talk, talk, talk as if as if Trump has ever done anything remotely, like what John [00:22:00] Lewis has done or achieved in his lifetime. But anyway, so John Lewis passes away you get all the predictors will statements from everybody on the political spectrum about including a pretty half halfhearted tweet from Trump.

But Trump was asked if he was going to go to any of the memorials. I say memorials in the plural because there was, you know, they were occurred in different places and he was in state in the Capitol building and there was a private Memorial service just a day or two ago, it was yesterday and Trump said he wasn't going to do, go to any of those.

And he didn't, we would talk about the politics and race of this again, to be really, really crass about it had Trump. And I've, I've been hammering on this since COVID right. And, and since, the, the events. In or around police brutality and so forth that Trump has missed key political opportunities. We remember him forcibly clearing, peaceful protesters out so that you can have a photo op in front of a church.

And you know, one of the things that happened is the motorcade of John Lewis is a funeral procession went [00:23:00] through what is now a black lives matter Plaza you know, a couple blocks from the white house. Like, you know, Trump had. A political instinct beyond Trump, he would have had it stopped there. He would have walked from the white house there to somehow sort of pay honor or Amit, like he could have had if he wanted his photo up, that would have been powerful to a lot of people that would have even probably won over some doubters I would have at least had even his most ardent critics say that was a, that was a real thing to do.

He could have done that instead. He doesn't. And not only that, but when we talk about the doubling down, and we're, you're going to get into this, Barack Obama gave the eulogy, at, John Lewis, his funeral, which was also attended by George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. So three former presidents, presidents, and Obama, And I think this also coincides with John Lewis, having written an op ed with the instructions that'd be released when he died.

So this came out as well. But Obama said this and made a lot of news headlines for this. He said, and this is a [00:24:00] quote. He said, even as we speak here, there are those in power who are doing their darndest to discourage people from voting. By closing polling locations and targeting minorities and students with restrictive ID laws and attacking our voting rights with surgical precision, even undermining the postal service and the run up to an election.

That's going to be dependent on mail in ballot. So people don't get sick. And what happens. A couple of things happen. We'll get into Trump's sort of timed response to this in a minute,

but Stephen Miller, our buddy Steven Miller's super white nationalist trump administration guy takes Obama to task for politicizing John Lewis.

When Trump has consistently done this as if not attending these Memorial services was not a political act as if this was not still a shout out to the scores, the thousands, perhaps millions of white nationalists and Christian nationalists who support Trump. As if that's not a political statement, I see this as is this sort of symbolic, as you say, doubling down on, on this, [00:25:00] nevermind getting into Trump's actual response.

So a couple

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** of things, we've now in the Trump presidency had the deaths of Elijah Cummings.

John Lewis. And I'll mention someone else who may have kind of that first client seemed out of place and that's John McCain. Right? All three of those, the funeral was attended by and several of them eulogized by Barack Obama. And then you have Bill Clinton and you have George W. Bush and all of the other sort of statesmen.

Right? Okay. Friends. I know that many of you listening have no time for George W. Bush for good reason. I understand. Okay. I'm not going to spend any seconds extolling the virtues of George W. Bush as a statesman. I'm not going to do it. Here's what I'm going to say. From the perspective of a scholar of religion ritual is important. It's important to religious communities and it's important to governments and civics fears. We have had rituals. Were notable, influential, inspiring [00:26:00] revolutionary Americans like John Lewis and Elijah Cummings have passed away the rituals to commemorate them have been avoided or boycotted by the man who is the president.

John McCain was a POW and I'm sure there's a lot of mixed feelings out there about John McCain. Again, I'm not going to sit here and extol, John, I don't know care about that. I'm not here to talk up or down about John McCain. What I'm here to say is when someone like a POW, when someone like a civil rights hero passes away, and there's not a symbolic unity on the part of our leaders, there's not a ritual where everyone pays the proper respect and teaches us as a nation.

Right. To respect the dead, to respect those who have contributed to our country, right. To respect the process of going through the loss, not only the personal loss of their family, but the national loss of them no longer being part of our community. It tears a hole [00:27:00] in the fabric of our public sphere. I'm sorry.

It just does. So when Trump is such a little, little tiny person that he cannot attend these ceremonies. It just does incredible damage to our Republic. I'll just add this down and throw it back to you. Andrea Mitchell tweeted this, how stunning that Donald Trump's because the day America was eulogizing John Lewis for his lifelong voting right crusade to suggest delaying the election based on false charges about mail in balloting.

And he did this only 16 minutes after getting a hit with the devastating GDP news. And we're going to get to that GDP news. Right? So Dan here, here, there's a, a service going onto

memorialize. The man who was one of the last living members of the leaders who walked across the Edmund Pettus bridge in order to fight for voting rights.

And simultaneously the president who cannot attend his funeral or Memorial is talking about basically restricting voting rights and changing the election date. Something that has not ever been, [00:28:00] not been done in a long, long time, even during the civil war. So anyway, I'll throw it back to you.

That transition

**Dr Dan Miller:** to the delay in the election things there, because it's, it's funny.

Somebody could look at that say, well, that doesn't anything to do with race, except that it does. Right. So, first of all, just as a factual matter, there's almost zero chance that the election can be delayed. It would require an act of Congress. There's no way that's going to happen. And then people have even gamed this house say, well, let's see what happens.

According to constitution, this presidency ends January 20th, 2021 . Trump will not be president anymore. I will say Clinton Pence will not be vice president. And then the next person in line of succession would be the speaker of the house, which is probably not what Republicans are gonna want in 2021.

So. All that aside, it's a very unrealistic possibility. It is part of an election strategy from the Trump administration. We'll get more into that, but why do I see anything to do with race vote Trump in the same tweet, he's also talking about, this bogeyman that he [00:29:00] has that male and voting is going to lead to massive voter fraud.

Right? Lots of studies have been done. They've shown that that doesn't doesn't line up, but he also did this thing not necessarily. I think in that. I can't remember was that tweet or a different tweet who can keep up with all of his tweets, but there was a place where he made a distinction and said that not absentee voting.

That's great. Right? Because he votes absentee and people, if case people don't get it, absentee voting and male and voting are the same thing. They are exactly the same thing. Except the traditional, yeah. Absentee voting has a higher bar. You have to show or stipulate or say that you can't physically be present to vote or whatever.

All mail in voting does is expand that some more people, including in particular people of color, poor communities, people who can't take off work to go vote people who certainly can't go stand in line for six hours in places like Texas and Georgia, where they closed hundreds of polling places before every election or people who [00:30:00] are purged from the rolls and so forth.

That's Trump's real concern. So when he talks about the fraud of mail and voting, that's what he's talking about and it relates directly to race. And so it's, I find it not just. And effort on Trump to distract from Obama, a person he personally doesn't like, I think as well as politically not liking him, but it also directly relates to, I think more of the race fading.

The Trump is more and more visibly turning to, as we get closer and closer to the election.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** You know, history books will show this we're so deep in the mire of our crisis timeline. It's hard to see this right, but Trump tweeting about voting, I'm sorry. Malin voting being somehow corrupt is this same tactic that John Lewis was fighting against when he was fighting against poll test.

You know, the fact that you show up at the, to try to get your voter registration, and somebody makes you recite the Gettysburg address, or if somebody makes you do all kinds of things, intellectual tricks and performances, to make sure you have the right to vote. I mean, [00:31:00] it's the same tactic. I mean, it's hard to see it in the mire of what we live in right now.

But he literally repeated the kind of thing. John Lewis spent his life fighting against. Okay. I'll also just say something. This is something going around social media, but it's worth pointing out. You cannot get up there one week with you and Betsy DeVos repeating these lines that we have to open the schools.

And then get up there the next week and say, it's not safe enough to have an election. Sorry. There's just no consistency there. And that's just not going to work now, as you said, Dan, even Republicans have said that Trump, talking about delaying that the, election, was a really bad idea. So McConnell Lindsey, Graham and others have come out and said that was misguided on his part.

so he does not seem to have, much support there. Even the Federalist society. Came out and said that, you know, one of the chiefs over there said, I'm not sure I can support Donald Trump anymore because of this. I mean, I've been with him up [00:32:00] until now, but you can not delay the election.

So my guest Dan, is that this was a test. Don't get me wrong. I think he'd like to tinker with the election. I think he was also trying to take away from the fact, as I mentioned earlier, that yesterday, we had the report drop that the us economy, decreased by 33% in the worst GDP gross domestic product report that we've ever had.

The last quarter was the worst one economically that we've ever had. According to this metric, we've talked about it. The only thing Trump sees is economics. He doesn't see human compassion. He doesn't see human suffering. He doesn't register human loss. He just registers economics. And this is pretty bad.

I'll just say one more thing, Dan, and throw it back to you is, one devil's advocate argument would be, well look, what did you expect when a pandemic of course, unemployment and the GDP shrink, of course things were bad. You're right. But here's [00:33:00] what I'll say. There's a, there's a nice piece at NPR on this that says March and April are one thing.

But most economies across the world in the developed world are going back to life as normal. We've said this over and over here, what happened in this country? The virus started to take off. So here's a quote, as soon as the virus started to take off again and key States like Texas, California, Arizona, Florida.

Okay. The economy got bad. I mean, this NPR report has people being quoted, restaurant owners, and other saying, people don't want to come to work because they're scared. People don't want to come to eat here. Cause they're scared. I don't blame them. I'm not here to say that that's misguided. What I'm saying here to say is of course things were going to be hard economically in March and April.

But if you look at South Korea, you look at Germany, you look at Denmark, it's pretty much life is normal. Their economy got better because of the kinds of support they provided ours didn't.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Yeah. So, and, and people listening will tell her, there's just all these sort of serpentine connections between all these things one thing leading [00:34:00] into another and excuse me. So I'll, I'll pick up on that same theme, right? Which is. All these distractions of Trump having his dual purpose, I think wanting to distract from Obama and John Lewis on one side and COVID on the other, but some interesting data because the GOP of course, to start as before this false alternative of either you respond to COVID or you reopen the economy and lots of economists and doctors and others said, it's not one or the other, you have to like, get this thing squashed to a manageable level. I'm of the view that COVID's not going to go to zero until, and unless there's either a vaccine or like two and a half years from now, and enough people have like, you know, been exposed to it that you have a herd immunity or something like that. It's not going to get to zero, but it can be manageable.

Right. But people have to buy into that. And Trump can say as much as he wants the schools have to reopen, but what is it now? Four of the five largest school districts in the country have said that they're not going to have in person classes in the fall. And some interesting data. I got this on, Politico, had [00:35:00] data showing that a majority of voters would rather wait for a safe and effective vaccine than take one that they feel has been sort of rushed through and may not be safe or as effective.

Only 22% of respondents said that they would take a vaccine quote as soon as possible. And unquote, within complete testing, interesting that the Republican number was only 26% Democrats for 21. One Republicans are only 26. another one, I read this in USA today. This was, in today's, online edition.

If people want to go and find it, and it's got links to the actual poles but just showing that fewer Americans would resume everyday activities with increase in cases. It just shows that the numbers are, are dropping, in that kind of thing. What does all that mean? It means that because the Trump administration didn't respond to this, as they could have that V-shaped recovery, that they kept touting, that they kept saying was going to happen.

It's not going to happen. Which brings me to your point. Right. Which is yeah, March and April. We're always going to be bad. They were going to be catastrophic, really bad. They're going to be sort of [00:36:00] apocalyptic numbers. And we all knew that, but had the Trump administration done the kinds of things that some States have done and taking the line that Trump was taking last week, he's already kind of fallen off to wear a mask and socially distance wagon.

have they done that? And so we're going to do that until July one. Like, we're just, that's the way it's going to be. That's what we're going to do. We would be in a position now to have problems much stronger recovery instead it's kind of drag on and it's because people don't feel safe or confident. A lot of politics, a lot of social life is about perception and people have to perceive that they're actually going to be safe, that their kids are going to be safe.

That they're loved ones and their parents are going to be safe. If they're going to resume quote, unquote, normal life right now, they don't have perception. And I think, I think rightfully so.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** So let's go through why we don't feel safe. part of the reason is we have not had a federal plan or system put in place to respond to the coronavirus.

OK. there has been no coordinated federal effort. Instead States have had to sort of fight tooth and [00:37:00] nail to get things like PPP and testing kits and, and so on and so forth. Right. There's just been this sort of piecemeal approach to it. All. Some States having access others, not. We've had people waiting in four and five hours in the Arizona and Texas heat, trying to get a test.

Some of the tests take two weeks, which is basically in, in many ways, sort of, undermines their efficacy. Right? Well, there's a bombshell report out advantage fair by Katherine Bean. And it really goes through why some of this happened and I encourage you to go read it all. It is. It is incredible.

Let me just share some of this with you, Dan. Catherine Bean says this countries that have successfully contain their outbreaks have empowered scientists to lead the response. But who was put in? This is me talking now who was put in response for us? There was, several different circles, but one of them was Jared Kushner.

Okay. So back to Catherine Bean, Jared Kushner set out in March to solve the diagnosis. It's testing crisis has efforts began not with public health experts, but with bankers [00:38:00] and billionaires, Brad talking again. The only people that Trump administ seems to know people who deal with money, not compassion, not helping health, helping the public only bankers and billionaires.

Okay. back to Katherine beam, they themselves as quote, the team of the people who get shit done as one part, just been proclaimed in a March political article. Kuser's brain trust included Adam bowler, his summer college roommate, who now serves as the chief executive officer of the newly created US international development finance corporation sounds like a public health outfit, hunt, Dan international development, finance corporation. Yeah, they sound like folks who are in the business of helping others. Okay. A government development bank that makes loans overseas. Other group members included Nat Turner, cofounder and CEO of flat iron health, which works to improve cancer treatment and research.

Right. So maybe we'll give, maybe we'll alright. Let me Nat Turner's on the, on the team. Who else? Dan, a Morgan Stanley banker with no notable healthcare [00:39:00] experience. Jason Young, who else? The group, the group reached out for advice to billionaires, such as

Silicon Valley investor, Marc Andreessen, according to one participant the group did not coordinate its work with a diagnostic testing team at health and human services working under Admiral Brett Giroir who was appointed as the nation's testings zar. So we have a testings zar, but he was apparently not linked up with the 18 who gets shit done. So that's the Trump administration for you. Here's what somebody says in the piece to Katherine Bean. Other agencies were in their own bubbles. The circles never overlapped close quote, trusting his vaunted political instincts.

President Trump had been downplaying concerns about the virus and spreading misinformation about it efforts that were soon amplified by Republican elected officials and right wing media figures. Worried about what else dan ? Worried about the stock market and his reelection prospects. Trump fear that more testing would only lead to higher case counts and more bad publicity.

Here's the real bombshell passage, most troubling of all, perhaps was the [00:40:00] sentiment. The expert said a member of Kushner's team expressed. So here's the A team who is in charge of the federal response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. Because the virus had hit blue States hardest a national plan was unnecessary and would not make sense, politically quote, the political folks believe that because it was going to be relegated.

The democratic States. They could blame those governors and that would be an effective political strategy. I got a lot of thoughts. You can hear my voice, I'm getting upset. So I'm gonna throw it to you, Dan. And I'll respond here in a minute. I'm going to go, I'm going to do take some deep breaths.

**Dr Dan Miller:** My biggest response, my most frustrated response is to the bombshell. It's not a bombshell, right? It, it surprises exactly. No one. And people may forget like the same Trump who was like screaming at the economy's be open is the one that was threatening to put like a federal quarantine on New York and places like this and it was Oregon.

It was New York, the coast, right? The coast in the Northeast, I should say, not [00:41:00] the Southern, East coast. Yeah. And it was it's so it surprises exactly. No one that Trump sees the world this way, the Trump administration does. We talked about it before, right? Populism and nationalism for these people, not all Americans are real Americans.

Real Americans are predominantly white. They're conservative, they're Christian, and they certainly are supporters of Donald Trump. And if you are from a state that didn't then screw you. Like you're, you're not an American, this isn't a president who sounds like other presidents who says. Oh, well, you know, I, of course I don't agree with this governor or this state or whatever, but natural disaster happens or whatever, you know, we're going to be there.

We're all Americans, that's not Trump for Trump we are not all Americans. And so those people who were dying in places like New Jersey and New York and California, that they're, they're not real American and we've seen their, their shit. Gift since it has started shifting to other Brown States and red States and Sunbelt's Sunbelt's States and predictions, now that it's making its [00:42:00] way into the Midwest, which Trump also needs.

I just want to point out, right. This isn't limited to this. You can talk about, I don't want to get too far into, we talked about last week to kind of trust secret police things that are going on in places like Portland, and threatening to roll this out across the country of federal agents and unmarked vehicles and unmarked, uniforms, whisking people away, And what they call preemptive arrests.

Excuse me, not H H S department of Homeland security. I think it was probably his preemptive arrests, which I'm not a legal expert, but that doesn't sound like you have probable cause for something. what's he targeting? He's targeting blue cities. He's targeting democratic cities.

You said this. Cause Trump says out loud, other people try to do secretly. So now I'll bounce it back to you and I'll take some deep breaths, but yeah, it's, it's a bombshell is maybe shocking mostly because. It's not a, it's a, it's not a bombshell. It tells us what we already suspect.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Well, the next time somebody says to you at a barbecue or at a dinner that they want somebody to run the country like a businessman say, you know what happens when you elect a businessman to run the [00:43:00] country?

They run the country like a businessman. Look, I'm not, if you're in business, I'm not trying to demonize you. I'm saying when you run your business, you're, your most overriding concern is. Profit inefficiency. Okay. I get it. That's how you have to run a business in a capitalist system. I'm not here to like demonize that, whatever.

Okay. That's a whole nother conversation for a whole nother time, but if you elect somebody who's only concerned or is profit and efficiency, that's how they're going to run the country. And they're going to make decisions along those lines and say things like this is hitting blue. It won't affect us.

It'll help us get reelected and it'll help the economy. If we don't do a federal response. So let's not do one. Human government is about human beings. It's about country passion. It's about collective and communal, thriving and flourishing. It's about health. We have not elected somebody who thinks in those ways and therefore our response, in terms of the federal government has not proceeded along those ways.

**Dr Dan Miller:** Yeah, picking up on this, maybe veering a little bit from [00:44:00] like, you know, no Cushner and these, these kind of quote unquote Titans of industry or experts. You can also contrast that with like who Trump does see as an expert. And this, this brings us to one of what I think is like, you can't make this shit up stories of the week.

Trump re tweets, earlier this week video from, an org sort of a cluster of organizations and a doctor, most people have heard about this. It's a video of dr. Stella Emanuel of Houston. Who dismisses masks says are unnecessary says that a hydroxy chloroquine is a cure for COVID. It's not. And by the way, I'm not a doctor, but viruses are very rarely cured and that vaccines are not cures.

They're preventative measures, but anyway, whatever. But, but who is this woman? Right? So Trump has Fauchi. He doesn't like Fauchie. Fauchi is more popular than him. It looks as if Trump has withdrawn from throwing a pitch out for the New York Yankees. Because people made fun of Fauchi for doing it. He's afraid that like, they're going to make fun of him.

He has real experts, right? As the president of the United States, just like he points Kushner and his [00:45:00] little brood of people to like lead this effort on the COVID testing. Who does Trump reach out to? He reached out to this doctor. Why does this matter? Dr. Stella Emmanuel? It has claimed in the past that doctors use alien DNA for different kinds of treatments, that doctors are developing vaccines to shut off the gene that makes people religious. So it's, it's this kind of doctors are anti-Christian. and this is what we alluded to earlier, sort of at the opening that sexual productive health issues are caused by people having sex with demons.

She believes that this is what she, she puts out. So Trump retweets something from her, the organization, not her, but one of the organizations she's affiliated with, is called American America's frontline doctors, grassroots political group, right wing group called tea party Patriots. They meet with Pence, right?

So the same group that released this video also meets with the vice president. Trump tweets this out, of course, people are like, this is crazy. This is nuts. And then it is briefing. He's confronted with this [00:46:00] and he and true Trumpy and fashion and appeals to his own ignorance as a defense and says, I don't know who she is.

I don't even know what country she's from, but she looked really impressive. Like, you know, that he's caught up in this and when he's pressed on this, he just leaves, right. He ends his press briefing and just walks away. So to that theme that. This is an administration that has world renowned experts that they can lean on at any moment, almost unlimited resources to deal with this.

And they're going for CEOs. And quack doctors who believe that that vaccines have alien DNA.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** So friends, if you're, if you want more, if you want more background on where this, this whole framework for demon insemination and that kind of spiritual warfare is coming from, please check out Prof. Andre on Twitter.

and check out his work. He he's been on our show numerous times. You can look up his episodes with us. He, to me is one of the, just go to resources for this kind of, this [00:47:00] kind of spiritual warfare, discourse in the Christian cosmos. So please look him up. I will read a couple of quotes for you here, Dan.

So Eric Erickson in the wake of everything you just said says y'all, I'm done, you know, Eric Erickson is a conservative. A pundit, a talking head kind of person, former a former leader in Politico. And he says, if you really think the most effective spokesperson for hydrochloric clean is a woman who thinks people screw demons in their sleep.

And alien DNA is in a use in medical practices. You're a clown show that woman completely distracted from the effort. So you're like, well, that kind of hurts coming from a fellow Republican and somebody. Right. So what is Jenna Ellis? The white house. I'm not sorry, the white house, but the Trump campaign's legal advisor.

What does she say in response that Erickson on Twitter? If by most effective, you mean the, the medical professional and actual doctor with experienced treating COVID-19 and willing to speak up then? Yes. So Dan, back to the doubling down, we [00:48:00] discover that the Dr. Trump is touting believes in these incredibly non-scientific medical quote, unquote medical practices has all of these.

What I think. Accurately can be called conspiratorial approaches to health and healing. And here is a high ranking member of the Trump campaign doing what else? Doubling down. Okay. It just never stops. So anyway, that is a massive story. any final thoughts on this one, Dan, before we turn to something else?

**Dr Dan Miller:** Well, just, I saw, an interview I think was on CNN with six. Trump voters. And they were asking, you know, who was still supporting Trump. And, you know, as a sign of hope for me that all six had supported Trump only three said that they plan on voting for Trump this time. But it was interesting that there was a woman there yeah.

Who was confronted with all this same stuff. Right. The same, I think it was even before this had come on, but it was about Trump talking about people, ingesting like bleach and things like that. And antiseptics [00:49:00] to try to kill COVID and things. And. It's it's hard to get your mind around the logic, her logic for still supporting Trump was, well, he's not a medical expert, so people shouldn't listen to what he says about it.

And then they're like, well, yeah, but he still says it. And she's like, well, yeah, but it's because the medical experts aren't acting the way they should. And so he's like, it was this weird, strange convoluted orwellian and sort of logic that. The more wrong Trump is the more, it somehow shows that he's taking some brave stand again.

So it was, it was really unreal. It just goes to this point again, that this is not about facts. It's about a kind of orientation to truth. It's about a desire to protect political and social identity in a certain political and sort of infrastructure at all costs in including the cost of coherence. so it, goes not just to Trump's spokespeople, but to still a lot of his followers.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** So you may say, oh, well, this is clearly a deep bunked story and a deep [00:50:00] bunked expert. Right? If you look up the numbers on how. the video of, of this, doctor supporting hydrochloric clean, look at the numbers on Facebook. It's in the tens of millions. It outpaced so many stories over the last year on Facebook live.

If you think people are not paying attention to this friends, go check that out. It, was, I mean, Don jr. Retweeted it and then got a Templar temporarily suspended from Twitter for spreading things like this. I mean, People are watching this leadership matters when Trump speaks, there are many people out there that, that unfortunately take what he's saying at word and trust him because he's an authority.

That's how it works. I want to go to polling numbers, Dan and other things, but anyway, did you want to jump in.

**Dr Dan Miller:** No go go to the polling numbers because I was, I was just going to say that this brings us around to the question of, are these things that Trump is doing, working right? Are they working for the reelection?

So lead us off in that with the polling numbers.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** So we've got a new ABC poll says that only [00:51:00] 36% of Americans approve of how Trump has handled coronavirus. Okay. I can go through the numbers here about what that looks like, Republican, Democrat, et cetera, but the bottom line is. Two thirds of Americans do not approve of Trump on coronavirus.

Okay. Less than one third of the country believes that sending federal officers to respond to demonstrations in cities like Portland makes the situation better. So you've got about 36% who support Trump on COVID. You've got something like 30 or 29%. That think what he's doing in places like Portland, is actually helping, a slight majority, 52% view the response as exacerbating situation, he's making it worse and 19% say it doesn't affect it either way.

So over half the country, or at least those polls says it's making it worse. A full 20% are like it doesn't help. And only 29% so believe that it actually does help. So, those are some of the numbers there and we already talked about the GDP shrinking by [00:52:00] 33%. and, and then I'll just give you one more, Dan, this is coming from the New York times.

Peace, just 38% of voters in the suburbs approve of Mr. Trump's job performance compared to the 59% who disapproved. So that whole suburban lifestyle dream, that whole appeal to the white housewife, is not the same in 1958 or 1962, as it is in 2020. There's just not as many, any, suburban Housewives anymore.

I mean, I think, I think that's who he's targeting with that kind of tweet, but. the demographics are, have, have shifted, and the opinion has shifted people in the suburbs, white women in the suburbs voted Democrat in the 28 midterms. So it's not playing well there either. So anyway, the suburbs COVID race and federal officers, all things, putting him under water.

So anyway, thoughts on that.

Well, I was

**Dr Dan Miller:** just going to a couple more things on the suburbs, right? And we talked about this, that this is again, it's a, it's an explicit form of race baiting, where Trump keeps [00:53:00] talking, like he tweeted out about making it safe in the suburbs. He said that, what he's talking about is weakening Obama, era regulations that made it harder to discriminate in, lending and, renting and so forth in the suburbs.

And this is, this was aimed at a policy that has been used, by political conservatives for decades, to keep, people of color out of the suburbs and preserve their white character. This

is where Trump has decided he's going to cast his lot in aiming at the suburbs for all the reasons that you're talking about.

He said that, you know, if the Obama era regulation stand Holmes will go down in value, crime will rise, right? This is, this is as you know, as well known a racist trope as there is. In other words, people of color are criminals and they're poor and they're lower class. And if they come into your suburbs, they're going to lower the prices.

And so he uses this, but, but he uses this tweet of, you know, protecting, you said suburban Housewives. I think I don't have the numbers in front of, I think most suburban women are probably working women either by [00:54:00] choice because they want to, and, or because in the neoliberal economic world, we live in very few families can survive on a single income.

He also talked about the people living the, suburban lifestyle dream. As you talked about preserving this to these, these explicit racists, tropes and aims, but as you said, the demographics have shifted something like a third people living in suburbs in suburbia are people of color. It is not the same place that it once was.

And so, again, we're not seeing any sticking power to this and tied in with that. Not related specifically to his statements about the suburbs, but five 38 had, an article, earlier this week, showing that voters are starting to the title was voters are starting to doubt Trump's reelection chances.

Right now, this is all about perception. There is nothing empirical necessarily early in. Whether people think somebody will win an election. So why does it matter? It matters because it gets to those issues of voter turnout and, and excitement and energy and all of that sort of stuff. I think one of the reasons that [00:55:00] the Hillary Clinton lost in 2016 was because people all thought she would win, people who didn't like her.

Thought she would win. They didn't necessarily want Trump to win, but they didn't like her. And they thought she was going to win it. They stayed home. They were not excited. Yeah. Or apathetic. It was kind of a protest. And then it turns out. That Trump did win. and, and it could have, I think, been different.

So the numbers have fallen consistently, from say February or December, when a lot of people thought Trump would win. Even people who oppose Trump, people who are going to fight tooth and nail to get Trump out of office. We're not optimistic that it was actually going to happen. It's now bleeding out more and more and more to people who believe that he won't win it.

We're pessimistic about that. And if I had to say anything about hope for this week, I think that is mine is that's beginning to hit even Republicans, even Republicans are losing that. Why do I say that the GOP cannot agree on a stimulus package in the Senate? Let alone anything to send to the house the [00:56:00] past one, three months ago.

Why. Because you all of a sudden have lots of GOP senators who are worried about deficit spending again. Right. And they haven't been for Trump's entire tenure. Why are they

worried about that? Because they think there's going to be president Biden in 2021. And they're going to go back to the same attack line they used against Obama.

They're going to suddenly rediscover their opposition to any kind of democratic spending. It's a sign of that, the fact that, that. It was, it was a pretty tapered response, frankly, to Trump's call to postpone the election. But given the absolute silence that the GOP has had about other things, he said the fact that they had any response to say, no, we're not going to do that.

They are distancing themselves from Trump. It matters because it shows that Republicans are increasingly. Not convinced that he's going to win the election. They see the same thing we do. They see that we've been talking about these poll numbers for weeks now. They're not, they're not going up for Trump.

We see that they've been aiming at the suburbs for weeks with his law and order emphasis and so forth. As you just said, it's not selling, it's not selling. [00:57:00] And I said a few weeks ago that if, you know, if by labor day Trump hadn't turned things around, I, you know, I think you'll start seeing more and more Republicans fleeing the ship.

We're a month out from labor day. Give or take we're almost there. And I think we're starting to see that so around, around in there, but my point is this broad question of is all this crazy stuff that he's doing. Does it fire up his base? Absolutely. But he can't win with justice base. And there's very little evidence right now that it's sort of sticking or hitting targets anywhere else, which is why he's talking about things like postponing the election.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** No, I think you're right about, all of that sort of energy and all of this sort of anticipations on the part of, you know, fellow Republicans, you know, we're going to have to see what happens here. I think the reaction since there are only going to get worse and Trump is only going to get more extreme, unfortunately.

And what we're seeing in Portland is horrifying. What we're, you know, there's just no other way to put it down. I'll just play politics. One more time with you. I'm not thinking about anything but political [00:58:00] scheming here. If as you have said so many times in this show, Trump had organized an effective federal response to coronavirus.

I honestly think we'd have a neck and neck race right now. I really do. I mean, if we were not in a situation where we are still inside, still scared to go to school, still scared to go to work still scared. Every time we have to run out and get milk, right. If we were in the position of Denmark and Japan and Germany and South Korea, and Trump could stand there and in a way that was actually convincing rather than just empty words, say that he had organized a response to the worst pandemic. If he had, as you said, a month ago, driven a truck full of PPP equipment to Michigan and to New York and Massachusetts and anywhere else that needed it. If he had become right.

The pandemic president, I think, honestly, Dan, I'd be sitting here thinking I'm not sure Biden's gonna win and I'm okay. I think we're going to get four more years, but that didn't happen. And believe me. [00:59:00] I'm not dancing about that. People have died. People have lost their jobs. We've had the worst, sort of, GDP quarter here.

And ever since it's been measured, even more importantly, people are dying without able to see their, their relatives. People's mothers are dying alone. I mean, this is not a good situation. I am not happy that it has meant Trump's demise, but if I just play pure political scheming, Dan. If he became the pandemic present and the way Giuliani became America's mayor after nine 11 or the way that Bush reacted to nine 11, we're probably in a, in a Trump favorable race here.

**Dr Dan Miller:** I agree completely. Well, I was gonna say, is that you remember he used that language of being a wartime president, right? That we're waging war against. If he had stuck with that messaging followed up by what you're saying, taking a softer stance, even on, on sort of the response. It's to the protests and different things like that.

I think it'd be more the neck and neck. I think he'd be out front. I think he would join all the benefits that a, an incumbent normally [01:00:00] enjoys, that have been sort of squandered to this point. So like you, I don't take any joy in 150,000 plus Americans who have died in the numbers are going to keep going up.

But again, as you say, from straight political calculation, I've been sort of amazed to watch how all of Trump's political instincts have basically been wrong, since like, you know, Say February. It's like he was untouchable for three and a half years or three years. And then all of a sudden one last, four to six months, it's just falling apart for him.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Well, Sarah Cooper had this on Twitter. It's just like, you know, four years ago. It's Hey, things are bad and I'll make them better. And what is he supposed to say? Now? Things are worse and I'll make them worse. I mean that, what message does he have coronavirus? You know, the national uprising, the movement for black lives, the GDP.

What can you appeal to? I mean, if we ask that that trite question is your life better than four years ago, I've been inside for five months. Scared every time I go to get milk, we can't send our kids to school every time my mom, right who's older. She's [01:01:00] like, yeah, I can, I haven't left the house or seen anyone in four months.

Cause I'm scared. Like how are we supposed to think our lives are better? And then you can say, well, that's not Trump's fault. It's coronavirus fault. And it's like, well, I'm looking around the developed world. And every time I go on Facebook and I see, see my friends over here from the Czech Republic, they're out there drinking wine by the river and having a great time I'm on a summer evening.

Okay. I'm not, and you know, I'm not trying to say drinking wine on the river on a summer evenings is the biggest thing in the world. I'm not trying to say that. That's what life is. What I'm trying to say is how can you say life is better right now? You can't alright. Then I'm going to go to my reason for hope.

I'll throw it to you for final thoughts on any other stories or things we missed, but before we, we jumped into that. I'll say my reason for hope is John Ortberg resigns. So y'all might remember this two, three weeks ago. I spent time on this story. I spent time on it actually, before most people had, Menlo church is in the Bay area, California.

It was at one point one of the top 20 most influential churches in the country. John Ortberg is a sort of second tier celebrity in the Christian world. Many [01:02:00] know him, if you're a former Evangelical. You definitely heard about John Ortberg, John Ortberg's son, Daniel Labrie, came out as a Trans person. A high profile person writes for slate.

And, basically broke the news that John Ortberg's other son admitted being sexually attracted to children and that even after this individual admitted that John Ortberg the pastor of the church, John Ortberg continued to let his son, John Harper Jr. interact with children and youth at the church.

One more instance, Dan of abuse and a lack of oversight in a church context. However, due to the speaking out of, Daniel and Grace Labrie, John Ortberg has now resigned. And so I think that is probably a good thing, although I'm sure there's a lot of hurt going on at the Menlo church at the moment in the wake of that.

So did we miss Dan? What are things you wanted to jump in here real quick before we sign off and, and make sure we get.

**Dr Dan Miller:** I don't have much more [01:03:00] to add. I mean, again, it's been like a bottomless news Newsweek. There's just more and more than we could possibly get to. But again, just, I don't know, sort of encouragement to everybody listening.

I'm looking at my Facebook feed. I feel exhausted. Right? I'm an academic. Normally this is the time of year where you're trying to kind of recoup before you go back into another semester, this sort of exhausting and I'm already exhausted. Think you're exhausted. I see all of my Facebook friends in different walks of life.

We're just talking about your being tired right. Of, of dealing with this. And so again, just, I don't know, for whatever, a word of encouragement to everybody out there who is feeling that to just kind of keep on keeping on. And in particular to those of us, anybody who's hearing this, right? The people that continue to support us and encourage us.

And I hope that they find, you know, encouragement this doom in this. So just a shout out to kind of everybody is we continue to, despite our president, despite a lack of federal response. People continue to band together and to do really interesting things and to find creative [01:04:00] ways to still try to be together virtually and things like that.

So, just sort of throwing that, that sort of word of encouragement out to, to everybody.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Well, and I'll just say one of the things that I've had to do, Dan is admit to myself that even as I try to prepare for a show like this one every week, I cannot keep in my head, all the things that are going on. And if I try, I turn into, yeah, my mental health goes down the drain.

I'm not a good partner. I'm not a good friend. I'm not a good professional. So I just encourage you friends to try to balance, being informed and aware of what happening in the world, with also your mental health and just the realization that you cannot control everything that's happening. And my encouragement would be stay hyper aware and

informed on the things you want to contribute to. If you're going to make phone calls, go to rallies, be an activist in certain areas and in certain communities do that and be hyper aware of all the injustices and all the problems going on there. There's going to be the other things that you just cannot be the expert on and [01:05:00] cannot know everything about because they're happening across the country or in places where honestly, you don't have the bandwidth configured to contribute.

So if you can't contribute to them, if you're not going to be an active part don't, excuse me, don't try to yourself for not being able to keep up on every detail of that story. I'll be honest. I do that. I try to just know what's happening in the world every morning and it leads to, excuse me, rabbit holes and other parts of, of the internet that, honestly just lead me to a place where my mood and my mental health are really just affected.

So that's my encouragement. Along those lines of rest and relaxation and escape. we will not be doing a weekly Roundup next week. I will be, taking a week off and so will Dan. And so we'll be back the following week. And, I am underway with production of the last two episodes of the orange wave.

So those will be coming and look for announcements on those on our Facebook and Twitter pages, I'll be interviewing Julie Ingersoll of you, the university of North Florida for the next episode. I want to thank you all for your support there. Thank you for your support [01:06:00] in general, we can always use your help straight white American [jesus.podomatic.com](http://jesus.podomatic.com).

And, our PayPal and Patriot and buttons are there. You can support us on the Facebook page at straightwhite JC on Twitter at Bradley Onishi on Twitter. And one more announcement, something I'll be talking about more here in the coming weeks, but we're redesigning our website. And for those of you who are teachers and professors, we're going to work really hard to make transcripts and reading recommendations and even PDFs available to you.

And so if you would like to use episodes in your classroom, We're going to be providing transcripts. We're going to be providing links for your students. We're going to be providing bios for guests and we're going to be providing, suggested readings. I go along with each episode. So please be on the lookout for that.

I'll be talking about it more as we get going here. Dan, I will say, thanks for your work. Thanks for being here. And, I, I hope we can start to plan our festival for the summer of 2021, the suburban lifestyle, [01:07:00] dream opening act, demon seaman, which is my new metal band. So that, that's in the work.

So, you know, if we get tired of academia, hopefully that music career can take off.

**Dr Dan Miller:** I mean, what do you think. If that, if that's not a reason for hope, I don't know what it is. Yeah.

**Dr Bradley Onishi:** Yeah. That's right. Yeah. If the band demon, semen coming to a, a very small venue near you coming to a zoom call near you, it's not a reason to hope than well, who knows.

All right. That's it. Dan, talk to you later. .